

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein comprising a ~~DEC 205 intergenic splice variant or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic thereof of said protein~~ the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4 or a sequence having at least about 90% identity thereto.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) The protein according to claim ~~2930~~ having an amino acid sequence ~~substantially~~ as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 21 or a sequence having at least about ~~9045% similarity~~ identity to at least 30 contiguous amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 21 ~~or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein.~~

32. (Currently amended) The protein according to claim ~~2930~~ encoded by a nucleotide sequence ~~substantially~~ as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 20 or which hybridizes ~~capable of hybridising~~ to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 20 under high ~~low~~ stringency conditions ~~at 42°C or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein.~~

33. (Currently amended) The protein according to claim 32 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes an amino acid sequence substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 21 having at least about ~~9045% identity~~ similarity to at least 30 contiguous amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 2 or SEQ ID NO: 21 ~~or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein.~~

34. (Currently amended) The protein according to claim ~~2930~~ having an amino acid sequence ~~substantially~~ as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 8, or SEQ ID NO: 11 or a sequence having at least about ~~90% identity~~ 45% similarity to at least 30 contiguous amino acids in SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 8, or SEQ ID NO: 11, respectively, ~~or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein.~~

35. (Currently amended) The protein according to claim ~~2930~~ encoded by a nucleotide sequence ~~substantially~~ as set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 4, 7 or 10 or which hybridizes ~~capable of hybridising~~ to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOs: 4, 7 or 10 under high ~~low~~

stringency conditions at 42°C or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein.

36. **(Currently amended)** The protein according to claim 35 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes an amino acid sequence ~~substantially~~ as set forth in SEQ ID NOS: 5, 8 or 11 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 90% identity ~~45% similarity~~ to at least 30 contiguous amino acids in SEQ ID NOS: 5, 8 or 11 ~~or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic of said protein.~~

37. **(Previously presented)** The protein according to claim 29 in a homodimeric form.

38. **(Previously presented)** The protein according to claim 29 in a heterodimeric form.

39-49. **(Canceled)**

50. **(Currently amended, Withdrawn)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated protein according to Claim 29 ~~at least one of DEC 205 SV, DCL 1, DEC 205 SV, DCL 1 or an agent capable of modulating DEC 205 SV or DCL 1 expression or DEC 205 SV or DCL 1 activity or a derivative, homologue, analogue, chemical equivalent or mimetic thereof~~ together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and/or diluents.

51-56. **(Canceled)**